

help fellow survivors face the challenges that follow in the wake of a COVID diagnosis. She works with the organization COVID Survivors for Change to support fellow survivors, remember those who have died, and advocate for strong public health measures to prevent future pandemics. In the face of her ongoing struggle and through the pain of losing a loved one, Dr. Roberts continues to advocate on behalf of others through her work with COVID Survivors for Change. Despite her grief and pain, Dr. Roberts says that she always has something to smile about. Her resolve and her passion are evident in her words and deeds, and I am so proud of the work that she is doing.

As we celebrate Black History Month, may we be reminded of Black men and women's enormous contributions to the United States each and every day. It is a true honor to represent Dr. Roberts in Congress and recognize her today for the work she has done to help others even at a time when her own life has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. I am proud to call Dr. Roberts a constituent, and grateful for the opportunity to uplift her during this year's celebration of Black History Month.

HONORING NASHUA FIRE CHIEF
BRIAN RHODES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding career in public service of Nashua Fire Chief Brian Rhodes. It is with great pride that I join others in honoring Brian's commitment to the City of Nashua.

Brian's career with the Nashua Fire Department was marked with many milestones and achievements. He has attended the National Fire Academy and successfully graduated from both the Fire Service Financial Management and Executive Planning programs. Brian started his career with the Nashua Fire Department in 1987. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000, Captain in 2004, Deputy Chief in 2011, Assistant Chief in June of 2015 and took over as Chief in April of 2018. In 2018, Chief Rhodes joined me in Washington, D.C. to share his work combating the opioid epidemic with Members of Congress. I appreciate Chief Rhodes unwavering commitment to serving his community and sharing his expertise with leaders from across the country.

I commend Chief Rhodes on his retirement after more than three decades with the Nashua Fire Department and on his unwavering dedication to the Granite State. Chief Rhodes also served as a State Representative from 2008 to 2014 representing Nashua Ward 3 in the New Hampshire General Court—a testament to his dedication to making the Granite State a better place.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Brian for his many years of service, and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Brian on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF VFW POST—
8896

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize VFW Post-8896 located in East Berlin, Pennsylvania on their seventy-five years of operation. Post 8896 is named in honor of Richard J. Gross, a native of Pennsylvania and a member of the United States Army-Airforce who gave his life on September 8, 1943, while flying a combat mission over New Guinea while serving as a radio operator and gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber.

In 1947, a group of veterans carried on the legacy and memory of Richard J. Gross and opened Post-8896.

For more than seven decades, the Post's members have remained dedicated to helping veterans and their families, building community fellowship, and promoting awareness for the sacrifices that our veterans have made.

On behalf of the people of the 13th Congressional District, it is my great honor to congratulate the Richard J. Gross VFW on seventy-five years of service to veterans of Adams County. I thank them for their great work and dedication to our community.

HONORING EDWARD "ED" A.
TORIELLO

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, Edward "Ed" A. Toriello, a World War II veteran, as he celebrates his 100th birthday today.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ed Toriello proudly served his country in Patton's 3rd Army during World War II. In 1944, he was a recent graduate from St. John's University's Divinity School looking to enter the priesthood when a week later, he answered the call to serve his country. Following six months of training he was sent to the European Theatre where he first served as a combat medic, then a scout in the 76th infantry regiment. Ed was supposed to remain in the country and go to Officer Candidate School, but at the height of the war, the Army needed more enlisted men, and he was immediately deployed overseas. During the frigid winter of 1944-45, he and his unit were sent to help stop the last German offensive of the war at the Battle of the Bulge. The 76th infantry regiment was then tasked with securing the Remagen Bridge in March of 1945, a crucial action that allowed the Allies to enter Germany. This single event's success is credited with shortening the war.

Throughout his service, Ed exemplified bravery and resilience as his unit suffered heavy losses. Edward is a decorated soldier, earning numerous commendations including 3 Service Stars, the Combat Medic Badge, and the Combat Infantry Rifle Badge. After Ger-

many's surrender, he was assigned to the U.S. sector in Southern Germany where he was offered to then attend Officer Candidate School as he had originally intended. Instead, he decided to return to civilian life and as he describes it, "the rest was history".

Ed Toriello returned to Brooklyn where he met his wife to be, Zina Toriello nee Caruba, and together they went on to have six children. They ultimately moved to Southern Ocean County in 1977 where he quickly became a beacon of positivity within the community. He remained active as a community volunteer and leader in numerous organizations such as Kiwanis International, Italian American Social and Civic Association, and the Knights of Columbus. Ed also served as a trustee for three decades with South Ocean's Medical Center and started a beloved local fundraising concert for the facility that has raised over \$100,000 to date. Today, Ed enjoys watching the Yankees and cooking for his friends and family.

Edward A. Toriello is a distinguished member of our community whose heroic actions during the Second World War set the trajectory for a life of servitude that has positively impacted those around him and will continue to benefit generations to come.

HONORING KAREN FERGUSON OF
THE PENSION RIGHTS CENTER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Karen Ferguson, the President of the Pension Rights Center, and recognize her as a true champion for the rights of pensioners. Karen was a leader on an issue that is of particular importance to me; namely, the retirement security of workers, retirees, and their families. For over 45 years, Karen was significantly involved in protecting pensioners rights through the development of pension legislation in Congress, and recently I witnessed her tireless advocacy first-hand as we worked to enact the Butch Lewis Act.

An alum of Harvard Law School and Bryn Mawr College, Karen founded the Pension Rights Center. The Pension Rights Center, with Karen as president and leader, has been instrumental in advocating for and drafting new regulations and laws, including the Retirement Equity Act of 1984, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the Butch Lewis Act of 2021.

Karen was widely known and respected on Capitol Hill and testified at many congressional and regulatory hearings. She will be remembered for her passion and depth of knowledge.

I join the millions of pensioners around the country in expressing gratitude for Karen's tenacity. She will be deeply missed. I send my deepest sympathies to all who loved her, the Ferguson family, her friends, and her colleagues.